



# Epi News



Summer 2008

## Nationwide *Salmonella* Saintpaul Outbreak

In June, the Coconino County Health Department (CCHD) was notified that a case of *Salmonella* Saintpaul infection that was diagnosed in a Coconino County resident matched the strain responsible for an ongoing multistate outbreak. So far, five Coconino County cases have been identified, all residents of the Navajo Nation. In Arizona, 56 cases have been identified. Nationwide, the outbreak includes over 1300 cases. The onset dates for the cases range from 4/10/08 to 7/13/08.

A case-control study performed in New Mexico, Texas, and Arizona indicated a strong association between the illnesses and consumption of certain types of fresh tomatoes (i.e. red round and Roma/plum tomatoes). A similar but much larger, nationwide study comparing persons who were ill in June to well persons found that ill persons were more likely to have recently consumed raw tomatoes, fresh jalapeño peppers, and fresh cilantro. These items were commonly, though not always, consumed together, so that



the study could not determine which item(s) caused the illnesses.

The FDA conducted extensive traceback studies of tomatoes, including farms, storage facilities, processing facilities, and distributors. However, despite thousands of laboratory tests, no tomatoes have tested positive for the outbreak strain of *Salmonella*. In late July, the FDA announced that the outbreak strain was detected on a jalapeño pepper grown in Mexico and distributed through a Texas produce distribution center. A jalapeño pepper linked to an ill person in Colorado also tested positive for the same strain. Testing also identified the outbreak strain in samples of Serrano peppers and irrigation water taken from a farm in Mexico. This farm also grows jalapeño peppers and tomatoes, thus tomatoes cannot be ruled out as an additional source of this outbreak.

The FDA had warned consumers not to eat certain tomatoes, but that warning was lifted on July 17. FDA is now advising consumers that they should avoid raw jalapeño and Serrano peppers and foods that contain them if they were grown, harvested, or packed in Mexico. Jalapeño and Serrano peppers

grown in the United States are not connected with this outbreak. Commercially canned, pickled, and cooked jalapeño and Serrano peppers from any location are also not connected with the outbreak.

([www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/tomatoes.html](http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/tomatoes.html)).



Most persons infected with *Salmonella* develop diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps 12-72 hours after infection. The illness usually lasts 4-7 days. Although most people recover without treatment, severe illnesses, including bloodstream infections, may occur. Healthcare providers who suspect *Salmonella* infection in a patient should order stool cultures. *Salmonella* cases should be reported to CCHD (see box below).

For more information about this outbreak, visit (<http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/saintpaul/>).

### CCHD Disease Reporting Contact Information:

928-679-7222 (8AM – 5PM Mon-Fri.)

928-679-7351 FAX

928-913-6744 (after hours urgent reports only)

Mail To: Coconino County Health Department

2625 N. King St., Flagstaff, AZ 86004

More information available at: <http://>

[www.coconino.az.gov/health.aspx?id=1183](http://www.coconino.az.gov/health.aspx?id=1183)



## West Nile Virus Found Near Lake Mary

The 2008 West Nile virus (WNV) season has begun in Coconino County. A mosquito sample collected in the Lake Mary area near Flagstaff in late July tested positive for WNV. **No other tests have been positive in the county.**



In Arizona, WNV has been found in two human cases (Maricopa), one viremic blood donor (Maricopa), 27 mosquito samples (**Coconino – 1**, Maricopa – 16, Pinal – 6, Yuma – 4), one dead bird (Maricopa), and 15 sentinel chickens (Cochise – 1,

Greenlee – 1, Graham – 2, Pima – 3, Pinal – 5, Santa Cruz – 3). One human case was fatal. No horses in Arizona have tested positive this year, although one equine case was reported in New Mexico, a few miles east of Fort Defiance, AZ. Across the nation, a total of 63 human cases of WNV have been reported in nineteen states.

WNV should be considered in patients with unexplained meningitis or encephalitis. A history of mosquito exposure or outdoor activity in places with WNV activity should raise the clinical suspicion. Suspected cases of WNV should be reported to CCHD (see box on first page).

For more information about WNV activity and prevention, visit:

[www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm).

## Measles Update

### The measles outbreak in Arizona is over!

The last reported case of measles in an Arizona resident occurred on June 5, 2007, and no secondary spread has been identified from recent measles cases. A total of 18 cases occurred during the outbreak, including 17 in Pima County and 1 in Pinal County. No cases occurred in Coconino County. Coconino County Health Department (CCHD) reminds providers to continue considering measles diagnosis in patients with a fever and maculopapular rash, especially when accompanied by the three C's: cough, conjunctivitis, and coryza. Travel history to countries with endemic or epidemic measles activity should raise the index of suspicion for the disease. Report suspected measles cases to CCHD (see box on first page).

## Communicable Diseases, Coconino County.

<b>Disease or Condition</b>	<b>Jan. - June 2008</b>	<b>Jan. - June 2007</b>
Aseptic meningitis	1	0
Campylobacteriosis	8	9
Chlamydia	182	254
Coccidioidomycosis	3	5
Cryptosporidiosis	1	3
Enterohemorrhagic <i>E. coli</i>	1	0
Giardiasis	1	3
Gonorrhea	12	31
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive)	3	2
Hepatitis A	0	2
Hepatitis B	7	14
Hepatitis C	30	40
Herpes genitalis	10	11
Legionellosis	0	1
Malaria	1	0
Meningococcal invasive disease	0	1
Methicillin-resistant <i>Staph. aureus</i>	10	6
Pertussis	2	2
Salmonellosis	10	5
Shigellosis	1	8
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> (invasive)	23	13
Streptococcal group A (invasive)	8	3
Syphilis	4	18
Trichomoniasis	6	3
Varicella	6	23

\*Data include cases diagnosed in county residents from 1/1 through 6/30 of the indicated years .

Please visit <http://www.coconino.az.gov/health.aspx?id=69> to view previous issues of the Epi Newsletter